

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-24 remain pending. Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 are independent.

§ 103 REJECTION – SATO, I'ANSON

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(A) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sato (US Patent 6,515,704) in view of I'Anson (US Patent 6,832,102). *See Office Action, item 2.* Applicants respectfully traverse.

The priority date of the present application is February 13, 2001 which predates the US application date March 2, 2001 of I'Anson. Therefore, I'Anson does not qualify as a valid prior art. To perfect the claim of priority, a verified translation of the priority document is submitted herewith.

Since I'Anson does not qualify as a valid prior art, any rejection relying upon I'Anson cannot stand. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-24 based on Sato and I'Anson be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections raised in the Final Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for

allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Hyung Sohn (Reg. No. 44,346), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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